

NEW-YORK DAILY TRIBUNE, WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 1871.

TEACHING THE DUMB.

THE CLARKE INSTITUTION, NORTHAMPTON, MASS.—VACATION—JOHNNY FRENCH—“EDIE”

THE EAGERNESS WITH WHICH THE LITTLE CHILDREN LEARN NEW WORDS—HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTION—THE DOMESTIC ARRANGEMENTS—THE SUCCESS OF THE NEW SYSTEM.

CLARKE INSTITUTION, NORTHAMPTON, Mass., July 18.—At the midday hour I can usually see from my

window many little girls and boys ditting across the playground (and it is the very ideal of a play-ground, with its smooth, hard, open and sunny slope bordered all around by evergreens, and bounded at the base by a huge old apple tree, under whose low-hanging branches rustic seats are conveniently disposed); but to-day, though it is full noon, I can see no little figures go skipping down ward, two by two, toward the apple tree. They are all gone, and the house seems strangely deserted. I have just seen the last trunk headed into the light wagon by the faithful Reuben, while its owner, Johnny French, a miniature theologian of eight years, with some original ideas of his own on religious subjects which he occasionally airs for the benefit and to the great surprise of his teachers, clambered up into the front seat. Johnny has been here over two years. When he came he knew nothing at all except what those sharp little eyes of his had taught him, for he became deaf when a baby, and had been totally neglected up to the time of entering school. I wish I had space in which to copy some of his quaint and amusing descriptions, which in composition retain the peculiarities incidental to the style of a person who expresses himself in a tongue the idioms of which he has not mastered. Johnny inquired the other day very anxiously whether he should be very good indeed he would not die, and was disappointed when told that good boys had as much chance of life as bad ones. He said that he wanted to die “right off,” and go to heaven, that he might see what it was like, and that he was in a hurry, and thought he could not wait. However, as he is a healthy, chubby-faced fellow, he will probably outgrow his insatiate curiosity to investigate celestial surroundings prematurely. He added that he knew that God would not let him go to heaven if he were bad. “But,” said he, “if he does not let me go to live with him, I shall not love him. I shall think he is selfish.” These are the ideas which he works out for himself unaided, and propounds in Sunday-school.

EDIE—about seven years old, had the use of the word “another” explained to him one day. He was told he must say “I want another apple,” &c. Not long afterward, at dinner, he passed up his plate for a second supply of pudding, with the petition: “Thank you for some another pudding.” This eagerness to catch up new words and apply them to the daily uses of life leads to still more amusing results sometimes. The teacher of a class in physiology gave the names of the bones of the head one day, and the next being letter-writing day, one of the girls informed her mother that “Belle H.”, a schoolmate, “had a son on her mandible,” and that “the doctor was coming to lance the aforesaid mandible!” Quite an original way of saying that Belle had a swelling on her chin.

The Clarke Institution buildings, as they now stand, are the work of about a year’s time. When the school was first removed from Chelmsford to this place, the exercises were held in a large building called “Norwood Hall,” part of which was hired for the purpose, while the two teachers and the pupils were lodged in two other adjacent buildings. Little Fannie, Miss Rogers’ first pupil, came and remained about a year, and was then so far advanced as to make it advisable for her to be taught at home by a private teacher. Most of the other pupils who had entered at Chelmsford remained, and others were added, so that their original quarters soon became too straitened for them, and the managers found Round Hill, adjoining the site of the boys’ school-house, in which the historian Bancroft taught many years ago, a piece of ground with two buildings suited for their purposes. A road runs through this tract leading to the Round Hill Water-Cure. It is partially wooded on one side of the road, while on the other side, Round Hill reaches its apex, and upon this are two pleasant and picturesque-looking houses, surrounded on three sides by foliage, and on the fourth giving a splendid outlook over the village of Northampton and the Valley of the Connecticut. On the other side of the road there is a large brick building, and these three houses, together with a small one used as a laundry and the stables, form a much more pleasing whole than one large and solitary house would have done. Everything is now in apple-green order. The cluster of houses, of which no two are alike, but which harmonize as a whole, look each as neat as a young wife whose trouousse still has the freshness of the first six months of marriage upon it. Irregular portions of the grounds in front of them have been terraced, and each bare spot tilled with green. The road has been gravelled, and every ugly object removed. The domestic arrangements of this school are conducted in a manner superior to that which obtains in any similar institution in the country. The fact that the school is yet so small a one makes this easier for it. But the landlord refused to allow it to be removed, Mr. Pearl brought an action before Justice Riley of the Third District Court of Brooklyn to recover the deposit money and the shed, and was awarded yesterday a verdict for \$100 and costs.

CRIMINAL COURTS.

At the Jefferson Market Police Court, George Furman was remanded, yesterday, for serving \$100 from George Geddes to a woman, for whom he was retained, to pay to the Essex Market Police Court, James Drew was committed yesterday, for stealing a gold watch from William R. Brown of No. 126 Norfolk.

Mrs. Dennis Brinckle of No. 557 Seventh-ave., charged with having unlisted signs for her business, was remanded yesterday, for serving \$100 from George Geddes to a woman, for whom she was retained.

At the Court of Special Sessions, yesterday, before Judge Stanley, Dominick Imhoff for beating his master, was sentenced for seven months... Eliza Miller, stealing a watch worth \$10, from a woman, was sentenced to pay to the Essex Market Police Court, James Drew, for serving \$100 from a watch, six months and fine \$20.

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